



Tempe Public Art



Joe Tyler

*Populous Fremonti -
Tree at the Narrows, 1998*

Welded steel

Location: Tempe Town Lake
North Bank near Priest Drive

Artist Website:
www.artistic-vision.com

Photo: Craig Smith

Description: The artwork was created to represent the "Fremont Cottonwood", or the *Populous fremonti*. This Arizona native tree grew along the banks of the Salt River. The sculpted tree provides a large shaded area and the roots can be used for seating, creating an ideal place for rest and reflection. The surrounding stone seat walls visually draw the pedestrian into the sculpture setting. The stone seat wall is designed to display donor's names and accommodate the installation of plaques. The names of the Adopt-A-Tree donors are engraved into the steel leaves.

Artist biography: Joe Tyler received his bachelor's degree in Horticulture from Arizona State University, followed by his Masters of Environmental Horticulture in 1972. After years of owning a nursery and serving as the Founding Director of the Arboretum at ASU, Tyler's artistic talents revealed a new profession. Since the 1990s, he has been creating primarily large-scale sculptures of welded steel, often incorporating materials including wood, masonry, and glass. Much of Tyler's work has a strong botanical influence due to his background in, and passion for horticulture and the Sonoran Desert. Because he strives to incorporate a site's environment, culture and history, his artwork often looks as though it has been in place for a long time. Tyler's residential, public, and art in private development works can be seen in cities across the Southwest, as well as Germany and Japan.

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